

# ATTEMPT TO LYNCH OMAHA MAYOR DRAWS ATTENTION TO SEVERAL EVILS

THE attempted hanging of mayor Edward P. Smith of Omaha, Nebraska, by a mob that the mayor was trying to prevent from lynching a negro, is a new demonstration of mass violence. In the history of lynchings there are few instances of attacks on public officials. Police chiefs, sheriffs, judges and mayors, trying to prevent lynchings usually have won their point or have been pushed aside, more or less respectfully. Such injuries as they have received have commonly been accidental and incidental.

The stringing up of mayor Smith, therefore, showed a greater degree of lawlessness than mobs usually are guilty of. It was not accidental. Men can't be hanged by other men by accident. Doubtless the governor of the state or the judges of the state supreme court would have suffered the same fate as the mayor of Omaha had they been in his place. Opposing such blind mob passion, no public official would have stood a chance.

This incident emphasizes the temporary hatred of law and order which is one of the characteristics of a mob, bent on lynching. This mob knew its intent to be murderous and was quite cognizant of the lawlessness of its whole procedure, yet it was so determined to carry out its purpose that it was ready to kill, and did attempt to kill, the highest public official of a big city who did no more than try to uphold the law in accordance with the provisions of the law, at the dictate of his own conscience, in fulfillment of his sworn duty. The mob also fought, and was willing to kill, the police of Omaha who were also fulfilling their sworn duty in trying to keep the negro out of the mob's hands, save the mayor's life and restore order in the city.

Why did this mob break loose? Why are lynchings so common in the United States? What shall be done to prevent them? Lynchings of negroes accused of attacks on women are common because the acts themselves are frequent and because they infuriate a part of the public. Their anger is willing to break out in investigation of the circumstances so that it may be determined whether or not the negro is rightly charged, and mobs are quite as apt to hang the innocent as the guilty. The Omaha lynching was one of these anti-negro affairs and the hanging of the mayor was probably the result of the super-fury engendered in the mob because of the nine hours' resistance which the authorities had offered. The burning of the courthouse and the resulting destruction of thousands of unreplaceable records were incidental and comparatively minor acts of lawlessness.

Lynchings into which the racial element does not enter may be ascribed a little less to hot impulse and a little more to impatience with the dilatory processes of the law and the many loopholes which the law affords to unscrupulous lawyers to secure the liberty of defendants, however guilty they actually may be. Our laws, admirable in the main, sometimes offer technical advantages to the guilty and sharp lawyers and easy going juries round out a combination that can make a trial a farce and test the patience of a justice loving public. If there were more swift and adequate administration of justice after the commission of crimes, there would be fewer lynchings. This is not a defense of lynchings but a simple statement of fact.

Mobs often are formed, break laws and risk their own lives in order to execute someone whom they believe to be guilty of crime when they would not do so had they not the uneasy feeling that otherwise the guilty might go unpunished. We know very well that the American people have a high regard for law and order and yet lynchings seem to be almost unknown outside this country. Either we have less self-restraint than other people, which we are loath to believe, or we have a mass of conflicting laws whereby the guilty may profit and have profited to such an extent that the people have been moved to take the administration of justice out of the hands of the courts. This is lamentable and the more so because the mobs in each instance have fingered themselves, branded their names and cast discredit on their country in the estimation of foreign people.

As to punishment, it is hard to punish adequately because of the difficulty of fixing blame. It usually is not difficult to discover the leaders, but the leaders more often than not merely give the mob its first impulse, like starting a great stone rolling down hill. What happens afterward is usually a manifestation of mass impetus, an aggregation of efforts in which each individual effort plays a minor part. That is why it is hard to fix blame and pun-

ish accordingly, but the mere fact that there are obstacles furnishes no reason why there should not be investigation and punishment. Hard punishment will be a preventive of lynchings while improvements in law enforcement following the commission of crimes will remove much of the rancor that finds expression in mob spirit.

Meanwhile, this lynching at Omaha stands as one of the most disgraceful occurrences that ever blackened a city's name.

## Excess Profits On Mining.

ONE of the weird features of the excess profits law is to be discussed at the session of the American Mining congress to be held in St. Louis November 17, and mining men will try to discover some means of impressing on congress the advisability of rectifying a condition which is retarding greatly mining development, thus working a hardship on the industry and indirectly on the whole country.

The treasury department has ruled that the original cost of mining property must be the basis of the invested capital as to the sale price. Cost of development may not be deducted in arriving at the government tax assessed, should the property be sold.

This means that if a person locates a mining claim and considerable money is spent in the development of the property, the sum so expended is not considered as invested capital, but in case of a sale he is taxed on the full amount as profit. A hardship is thus worked on those who are disposed to develop new properties. If the amount expended in the development of properties was accounted for as invested capital and the tax based upon the difference between the amount expended and the amount received, fair treatment would be accorded and the mining industry stimulated.

Suppose a man spends \$25,000 developing a hole in the ground into a mine, the government establishes the cost on the basis of the hole in the ground and the mine is taxed as excess profits. This puts a handicap, the worst kind of wet blanket, on the man who is disposed to take a chance on a prospect and spend money on it in the hope of getting a mine.

Congress has been appealed to to change this condition and it has acted to the extent of lowering the tax rate, but that alone is not sufficient. It is like giving a sedative for a diseased condition, without any further treatment to remove the disease itself. The mining men at their forthcoming session may develop enough influence to have the wrong rectified.

Senator Ashurst has heard that president and Mrs. Wilson came home from Europe with more than a million dollars' worth of jewelry and other gifts from kings and other high personages, and it is just as hard for him to approve of that as it will be for any other Democrat of the shirt sleeve variety.

Sgt. York, the war hero, continues to have courage, good sense and good luck. He has got married, which shows sense and requires courage, and he was lucky enough to pick one who doesn't talk much.

For labor disorders, Italy prescribes greater production and more frugality. Any doctor knows it is easier to prescribe than to make the patient take the medicine.

The best natural complexioners are said to be in Milwaukee. It must be the Milwaukee mayor now, and not the beer, that is making the citizens blush.

Actually, there are still a good many employees who regard their employers as real friends.

A fine subject for scientific investigation would be the relation of behaviorism to bootleg.

Gov. Hobby seems to be remembering Carlin and Columbus as well as the Alamo.

Nothing has such power to broaden the mind as the ability to investigate systematically and truly all that comes under thy observation in life.

—MARCUS AURELIUS

## Little Interviews.

# El Paso Has Lower Tax Rate Than Leading Cities of North; Sanitary Conditions Here Ahead of Those in Eastern Cities

VISITED quite a few cities during my trip East and found that El Paso has the lowest tax rate per \$100 of any of them," said W. P. R. Bain, city tax collector. "The rate of state, county and city taxes in Chicago is \$3.15 per \$100. Chattanooga has just been raised \$5 cents and Knoxville \$5 cents. Cincinnati and New Orleans had not made their rates, but both anticipated considerable increases, and they will have a higher rate than El Paso. In every city I visited there was a building and real estate boom on. The real estate boom applied to farm lands also and the farmers are prosperous and have money. About 100 miles north of El Paso, in the mountains where lands were selling not long ago at from \$100 to \$150 an acre. Quite a good part of the farmers here paid off their mortgages, and many are buying more land. This prosperous condition in farming sections applies generally where I was on my trip and I was in a number of states."

"I was most agreeably surprised at finding that El Paso was off here alone in the southwest, has offices of the east, old towns, rich and prosperous, better as far as sanitary matters and cleanliness are concerned," said Dr. A. B. Warren, chief food inspector, who has returned from an extended trip in Ohio and other central states. "It made me feel proud to find we are so far ahead here. Naturally connected with the sanitary affairs here in El Paso I watched and went about to learn their methods of sanitation and health conservation. I was in Columbus, St. Louis, Springfield, Dayton and such cities and it is no bragging to say we have them all beaten. Why the way I saw wash water thrown on the streets and alleys, and their careless ways of handling garbage, dirt, and fifth in alleys and on vacant lots would create a howl everlasting in El Paso."

## A Line O' Cheer Each Day O' The Year

By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

### THE PILGRIMAGE.

COMPARED to the vastitude of this world of ours is but a little place.

And dark or sunny weather.

We folks here got to live our days together.

We cannot spend afar.

And sit upon some star.

And hold ourselves aloof as hermits are.

But through our lives must trip in an unending comradeship—

Wherefore I say.

Let's all be gay.

And each do his level best.

To make things pleasant for the rest.

So that when we have crossed the finish line.

Up past the gates divine.

We'll all look back upon our journey here.

As just a joyous pilgrimage of cheer.

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## Rippling Rhymes

By WALT MASON.

### Back To Work

I AM back from my vacation, rested up and full of vim, back from weeks of recreation in the forest vast and dim; towering mountains I've ascended, hunting cougars to their lairs, and I found the fishing splendid, and I shot some grizzly bears. You poor dreary humdrum critter, never moving from the grid, just sit down and hear me twitter of the bully time I had. Where the mountains broke down sailing down the gorges to the sea, I caught perch and trout and grayling two long—some even three. And I shot a golden eagle that was roosting on a hill; such a bird is truly regal, and the shooting takes some skill. Here's my story here you, and you wish I'd close my trap; what, you say my story here you, and you wish I'd close my trap? That's the way I'm always treated when I try to entertain; that's the way I'm always greeted by you stay-at-homes insane. When I come back full of stories of the wondrous things I saw, of the forest and its glories, I am asked to read my jaw. What's the good of a vacation if a man, when he comes back, cannot hand the population all the fables in his pack?

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WALT MASON.

## "Come On"

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By Harry Murphy

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. DOES the color of corn indicate its quality?

A. Corn of the same quality may be white, yellow, red, blue or black. White corn is likely to be a bit milder in taste. Various sections prefer corn of certain colors. In the south white corn is most popular, while the northern states prefer yellow corn, and in the southwest where the Mexican influence is strong, blue, black and red are popular.

Q. What does the term "mean C. C." mean?

A. C. C. is a shortening of the word cinematograph, which means moving picture machine. So a moving picture show ahead is a cinema show.

Q. Is it yet possible to state the cost of war?

A. The treasury department says that the United States spent during the war period up to June 30 last, \$12,500,000,000. The normal expenditures during that period would have been about \$10,000,000,000, which would leave \$2,500,000,000 chargeable to the war. Of this amount \$3,000,000,000 was loaned to the allies and will be repaid. The net cost to the government due to the war is therefore about \$21,000,000,000.

Q. How can one tell when leap years occur?

A. Those years divisible by four are leap years except when they fall on the even hundred years when they must be divisible by four and also by 400. The year 1900 bore the first part of this test, but not the last, and therefore was not a leap year.

Q. What divisions saw most fighting during the war?

A. The First division spent most time in France and most time under fire—31 days. It captured 6143 Germans, lost 1294 killed, and had 1813 wounded. The Second division captured 12,525 Germans, lost 4419 killed and had 19,627 wounded. The 7th national army division, composed largely of New York troops, is reported as having made the greatest advance in the last of the war.

Q. Does president Wilson speak French?

A. President Wilson does not speak French. He used an interpreter at Paris.

Q. Is condensed milk really milk?

A. The department of agriculture states that unevaporated condensed milk contains no ingredient except milk, but that brown sugar is used in the sweetened variety.

Q. Do stockholders in railroads get passes on them?

A. Stockholders may not get passes under the law unless they are at the same time employees of railroads.

Q. Which indicates that a baby is a boy, pink or blue?

A. In this country blue is used to indicate a boy and pink a girl. (Any reader can get the answer to any question by writing The Herald Information Bureau, Frederick J. Haskin, director, Washington, D. C. This offer applies strictly to information. The bureau cannot give advice on legal, medical and financial matters. It does not attempt to settle domestic troubles, nor to undertake exhaustive research on any subject. Write your question plainly and briefly. Give full name and address and enclose two cent stamp for return postage. All replies are sent direct to the inquirer.)

THE LOST COLONY.  
Douglas, Ariz., Sept. 27.  
Editor El Paso Herald:  
The Haskin address to the inquiry about the lost colony of 1830 is far afield.

The colony was landed on Roanoke Island, North Carolina, and the word "Croatan" carved on a tree where the town of Manteo was. The only clear left of the settlers Virginia Dare, White was governor White's daughter. Roanoke, Va., is an island city.

John Naulin Lowe.

first room, filled with the latest poetry, the worth while novels and the latest word in psycho analysis are tempting invitations to stay.

Perhaps the shop has such a sympathetic atmosphere because its proprietor, Raymond Arana, is himself a poet and critic as well as the publisher of many unique little volumes of plays and verse; while his wife, Josephine Bell, is known to fame as one of the best verse writers of the day.

It lends a certain air of culture to the transaction, say what you will, a solid young boy by a dreamy-eyed poet of short hair, dressed in a velvet suit, and a lady, beamed and obviously learned lady, instead of by the usual dapper local clerk.

Village celebrities frequently drift in here on an evening and hold forth in groups. Ordinary Kempt, the village poet, is often seen, hunched and beaming. In his corduroy suit, ready to talk feelingly of love or give you a poem, he is a sight to behold.

Charles Wood occasionally ambles in, enunciating audacious epigrams in his mild-mannered way. Young artists, writers, and writers of mushroom magazines, congregate here and feel sorry for the rest of the world.

Here, in a word, you are emphatically among highbrows, but young and friendly highbrows, who have a good time in spite of their mental elevation.

Little Chris  
"DADDY," said "little Chris," "when I grow to be a man, I'm going to marry Betty Quaid if she quits spunkin' me when we play. If she don't, I'll marry somebody else."

## Abe Martin



MOST of the girls that come out of beauty shops look like they had been waited on. A straight life is the best policy.

Overnight National Newspaper Service.

Men relating to shipping or to naval matters.

Surgeons should benefit during this configuration, but they will find many hospital problems developing during the coming winter.

Under this rule capital and labor should reach a better understanding, but a labor leader will become the target for abuse and unjust criticism.

Persons whose birthdays it is have the forecast of an active and progressive year. Travel and change are indicated, but care in money matters is enjoined.

Children born on this day are likely to be inventive and original. These subjects of Libra are usually enterprising.

Of a total of 542,293 women over 15 years of age employed in Japanese factories 300,000 are under 30 years of age. Their work in the raw silk factories lasts 12 to 14 hours a day on an average, and in the weaving mills they average 14 to 16 hours a day.

The modistes who fashion women's clothes seem to be taking off everything but the price.—Exchange.

## Steel—How The Bessemer Article Is Made; Kelly Was The Inventor

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 28.—In view of the nation wide attention now directed toward the strike of steel workers, the National Geographic society has issued a bulletin, based on a communication from William Joseph Showalter, concerning the making of steel, which he terms "the industry's greatest asset." The bulletin follows:

"The story of Bessemer steel is one of the fascinating chronicles of the industrial world. It seems to have been one of those cases where two men working in different countries, each without knowledge of what the other was doing, reached the same conclusion about the same time. Both were granted American patents; but upon application for renewal the patent office held Kelly to be the inventor. The world, however, gives the credit to Bessemer, and the process is known as the Bessemer process."

"Kelly was the maker of old fashioned cooking pots and kettles. It is related that one day he was sitting in front of his furnace and observed a point of incandescence where there was no charcoal—only the metal and the air. This led him to contend that air alone would burn out the impurities from molten iron. When he developed his tilting converter, his engineer blew such a tremendous blast through the first charge that iron and all went up as sparks, to his discomfiture and the crowd's amusement."

"The first Bessemer. He finally succeeded in getting the amount of air regulated, and poured out of his converter the first Bessemer steel. People said Kelly would soon be burning ice. Since his old converter was used, billions of dollars' worth of steel has flowed out of the world's converters."

"Both Kelly and Bessemer were baffled by the problem of regulating the supply of air so that it would not burn out all the carbon, a little of which is essential to strength. Furthermore, their products frequently proved to be brittle, owing to the fact that the molten metal absorbed oxygen from the air blast. The first step was to solve eventually by the expedient of burning out practically all the carbon, then adding exactly the amount required for the specific quality of steel desired. The second difficulty was overcome through the addition of manganese to take care of the harmful oxygen."

The latter suggestion was the contribution of Robert F. Mushet, a Scotch steel maker. Goranzen, a Swedish ironmaster, had previously achieved the same results by using a

pig iron initially rich in manganese. Thereafter, underdone and overdone steel disappeared, and the Bessemer process is to see more heat than flame to ever produced. A converter is a huge egg-shaped "ash-tray" of wrought iron lined with the top of some twenty tons of molten lime and poured into it, and then through a spout and a damper, burning finally to a faint blue, which is a sign that all the impurities are gone.

"When it is swung back to its position, a man with colored glasses walks out over the converter and peers down into its white-hot depths to see if the heat from the last charge has melted away any of the steel's lining. If it has, he has balls of putty-like clay down into the holes to stop them up, or sets a crew of workmen to patching the damaged shell. This done, the big egg swings back again, gets another charge of molten iron, and begins the process over again. The whole operation takes about 15 minutes—a ton of steel is made, and the converter is used for structural material, railroad rails, wire, and pipe."

"In 1900 there was twice as much steel produced in the United States by the Bessemer open-hearth process. But with the proper exhaustion of ores having the proper amounts of phosphorus for converter practice, the open-hearth furnace, which can use with equal success ores which contain either a large or a small amount of phosphorus, largely replaced the Bessemer converter."

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## Hogwallow Locals

By DUNK HOTT.



ISAAC HELWANGER found his pipe this morning right where he had laid it yesterday.

When anybody gets a feeling that they don't amount to much is a social way they ought to recollect that at some time or another in the distant past some of their relatives thought of running for governor.

Sidney Becker was out filibustering around Sunday in his new patent shirt front.

## Travelette

By KIKSAH.

A BOHEMIAN BOOK SHOP.  
WASHINGTON Square Book Shop, in its basement home on West Eighth street in New York, is a colorful place, from the small show case filled with exotic periodicals which greets you as you descend the crooked steps to the wood block prints and batiks which deck its walls and hope you will buy them. If you cannot buy them you need not feel embarrassed for this is first of all a friendly book shop. Its who cannot buy and run, may stand on one leg and read, which every true book shop habitué knows is the best way to get acquainted with a new book. There are even comfortable wicker chairs and wooden benches for those who wish to spend the evening. And a long low table in the middle of the

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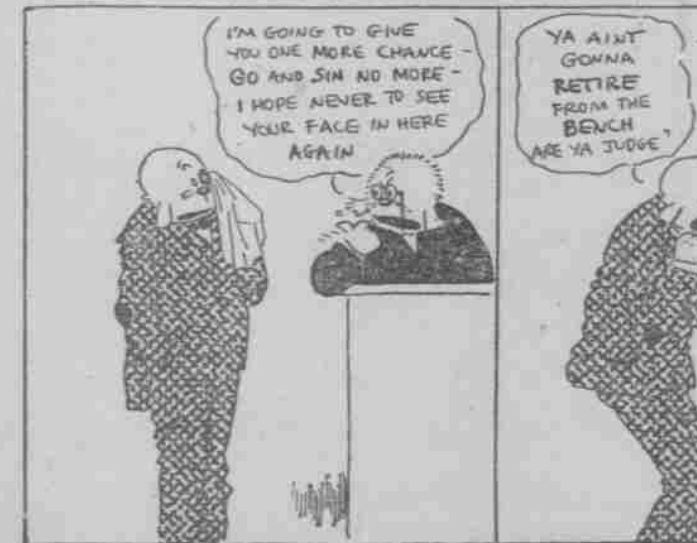
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## The Judge Has Him Worried

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I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU ONE MORE CHANCE—GO AND SIN NO MORE—I HOPE NEVER TO SEE YOUR FACE IN HERE AGAIN.

YA AINT GONNA RETIRE FROM THE BENCH ARE YA JUDGE?

TIL WE MEET AGAIN

## EL PASO HERALD

DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE, THAT NO GOOD CAUSE SHALL LACK A CHAMPION, AND THAT EVIL SHALL NOT THRIVE UNPUNISHED.

H. D. Slater, editor and managing editor, has directed The Herald for 21 years. C. W. Martin is Manager and G. A. Martin is Managing Editor.

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